

# P2Times

**DECAM Bi-Annual Pollution Prevention (P2) Newsletter**  
**December 2005, Issue 35**



*(The December edition of the P2 Times is published to provide Soldiers and staff with an annual wrap up of pollution prevention accomplishments and initiatives started or completed this year.)*

## New Parts Washers

Several units on the “banana belt” have probably noticed new green Clarus parts washers in their motor pools. There are 50, or approximately one-third, of the parts washers on post were replaced with DECAM owned and maintained Clarus parts washers.

These parts washers use the same non-carcinogenic, low-toxicity solvent as used in previous parts washers but are much more user friendly. A pressure gauge on the side makes it easy to determine when filters need to be changed and the pump system on the parts washer makes it easy to drain dirty solvent. In addition, the cone shape-design of the solvent reservoir increases particles separating from the solvent and settling on the bottom for a longer lasting solvent. More of these parts washer will be bought and fielded for the post as funds become available.



The Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management (DECAM) Pollution Prevention Branch provides service on these parts washers as well as replaces dirty solvent with clean solvent using distillation units located on post. If you have any questions about parts washer service please contact Kevin or Barney at 526-0979.



## Paint Gun Cleaning and Solvent Recycling

There were two solvent minimizers and a paint gun cleaner bought this year for use at the Bldg. 8000 paint booth. The minimizers allow solvent used for paint gun cleaning to be recycled by removing the waste paint. The minimizers have significantly reduced the amount of waste solvent being disposed of from Bldg. 8000. Only “paint pucks” must now be disposed of as hazardous waste instead of drums full of paint contaminated solvent. This initiative will save DOL an estimated \$30,000 per year in new purchase costs and disposal costs.

## Used Antifreeze Recycling

Although Fort Carson has its own industrial wastewater treatment plant that can handle used antifreeze, this reusable product has been historically wasted by dumping down the industrial drains. A contract was set up in October of 2004 that allows a local contractor to place used antifreeze collection totes in areas on Fort Carson expected to generate significant quantities of used antifreeze.

More than 20 250-gallon totes have been placed at different motor pools across the post to collect used antifreeze. DECAM asks that Soldiers use these totes so the product is recycled and refrain from dumping into the industrial sewer system. Funds generated from selling the antifreeze goes into the recycle fund for the post.



### Renewable Energy Certificates Purchase

Fort Carson partnered with eight other government agencies and signed a landmark agreement with the Western Area Power Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy, to purchase renewable energy certificates. Fort Carson will spend less than 1 percent more in its electric costs over the next year to purchase the certificates. The RECs purchased will equate to approximately 29 percent of electric purchases for Fort Carson or the equivalent of roughly 2,450 hours.

Biomass (saw dust and other waste wood products) from sawmills in California will provide 76 percent of the RECs and the other 24 percent of the RECs will come from wind farms located in California and Nebraska.

Buying the RECs does not mean Fort Carson uses the actual renewable energy generated. The RECs give the Installation credit for supporting renewable energy production, and thereby the companies producing the energy. Promoting renewable energy lessens the demand for more expensive and environmentally-detrimental, nonrenewable energy sources such as coal, natural gas and fossil fuel.

The benefits to purchasing renewable energy are considerable. Renewable energy helps the environment by reducing air and water pollution, it aids in national security by reducing the demand for fossil fuels produced by other countries and creates new industries and jobs for generating renewable energy.

### Deconstruction of the Golf Course Clubhouse

In an effort to reduce the amount of demolition

debris disposed of in local landfills, the Golf Course Clubhouse was removed using deconstruction practices. Deconstruction is the practice of demolishing a facility in a careful manner to extract materials that can be recycled or reused. Through deconstructing the facility rather than demolishing, nearly 88 percent (670 tons) of the building was diverted from the landfill either through recycling (steel, concrete, etc.) or reuse (windows, lockers, ceiling tiles, etc.).



### Shop Towel Program

Shop towels are used by just about every motorpool for minor cleanup. Did you know that those shop towels are probably classified as a hazardous waste?

Since it is hard to determine what may be on those rags after they are used, Colorado regulations requires that they be managed as hazardous waste unless they are being collected and cleaned. In an effort to save on disposal costs, reduce hazardous waste management costs and avoid fines, DECAM has set up an easy to use shop towel laundering process.

Each Tuesday any unit can come down to Bldg. 3708, pick up shop towels and drop off any shop towels provided by the contractor that are dirty for cleaning. This process allows the unit to continue its mission while avoiding time consuming and costly hazardous waste management procedures.

*If for more information about any of the programs highlighted, call the P2 coordinator at 526-1739.*